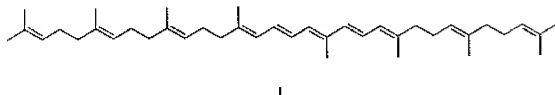


Process for preparing phytofluene

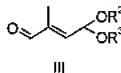
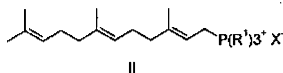
Abstract

- 5 The invention relates to a process for preparing phytofluene of the formula I,

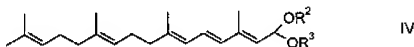


where

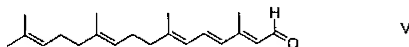
- 10 a) a phosphonium salt of the formula II is condensed with an aldehyde of the formula III



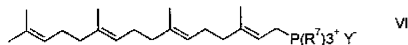
- 15 in a Wittig reaction to give an acetal of the formula IV



- 20 b) the condensation product of the formula IV is subjected to an acid-catalyzed acetal hydrolysis to give the aldehyde of the formula V



- 25 c) and V is condensed in a further Wittig reaction with a phosphonium salt of the formula VI to give phytofluene



where the radicals R¹, R² and R⁷, and X⁻ and Y⁻ have the meaning stated in the description.